NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRAINING ADVISORY BOARD
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SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAUMA INFORMED RESPONSE

Date: December 7, 2026 Registration Deadline: November 7, 2026

Times: 0800-1600 hours

Location: Sterling Police Department
212 3rd Avene
Sterling, IL

Instructor: Sgt. Maggie Ellmaker – Sterling PD, Victims Advocate – Sterling YWCA

Member Fee: $0 Non-Member & Member Non-Sworn Fee: $150

This course has been approved by ILETSB for the following mandates:

Sexual Assault Trauma Informed Response - 3.0 hours
Civil Rights - .50 hours
Const. Use of LE Authority - .50 hours
Cultural Competency - .50 hours
Human Rights - .50 hours
Legal Update – 1.0 hours
Procedural Justice - .50 hours
Psychology of Domestic Violence - .50 hours
Crisis Intervention - .50 hours
Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect - .50 hours
Lead Homicide Investigator – 8.0 hours

PURPOSE OF COURSE:
The purpose of this course is to provide certified law enforcement officers with the knowledge, skills, and practical tools necessary to respond effectively, lawfully, and compassionately to victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse. This training addresses the need for trauma-informed responses that improve victim cooperation, enhance investigative outcomes, reduce re-traumatization, and ensure compliance with Illinois statutes, procedural mandates, and best-practice standards. The course seeks to enhance officers' understanding of trauma's impact on memory, behavior, and communication while reinforcing legal responsibilities and professional conduct during sexual assault investigations.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is delivered in a classroom setting using lecture, facilitated discussion, multimedia presentations, and case study analysis. Instruction emphasizes trauma-informed principles, statutory requirements, investigative best practices, and victim-centered response techniques. Students will engage in guided discussions, review real-world case examples, and examine officer decision-making in sexual assault and sexual abuse investigations. The course is designed to balance legal instruction with practical application relevant to patrol officers and investigators.

GOALS OF THE COURSE:

The Goals of the Course are as follows:
• Recognizing the symptoms of Trauma
• Understanding the role trauma has played in the victim's life
• Delivering services in a compassionate, sensitive, and nonjudgmental manner
• Trauma-informed interviewing techniques
• Understanding cultural perceptions and common myths of sexual assault/abuse
• Responding officer duties
• Report writing
• Recognizing special sensitivities of victims due to: age, including those under the age of 13; gender, or other qualifications (P.A. 100-910)
• Applicable Illinois sexual assault/abuse laws